

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 16-1150V
(Not to be published)

SUSAN ITSELL,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Respondent.

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Filed: June 1, 2017

Decision by Stipulation; Influenza Vaccine;
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine;
Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

DECISION

HASTINGS, Special Master.

This is an action seeking an award under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program¹ on account of an injury suffered by Susan Itsell. On May 22, 2017, counsel for both parties filed a Stipulation, stipulating that a decision should be entered granting compensation. The parties have stipulated that Petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

- A lump sum of \$165,000.00, in the form of a check payable to Petitioner, representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

Under the statute governing the Program, as well as the “Vaccine Rules” adopted by this court, the special master must now enter a decision endorsing that stipulation, and the clerk must enter judgment, in order to authorize payment of the award. See § 300aa-12(d)(3)(A) and (e)(3); § 300aa-13(a); Vaccine Rules 10(a), 11(a).²

¹ The applicable statutory provisions defining the Program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2012 ed.). Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references will be to 42 U.S.C. (2012 ed.).

² The “Vaccine Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims” are found in Appendix B of the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

I have reviewed the file, and based on that review, I conclude that the parties' stipulation appears to be an appropriate one. Accordingly, my decision is that a Program award shall be made to Petitioner in the amount set forth above. In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review of this Decision, the clerk shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ George L. Hastings, Jr.
George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

SUSAN ITSELL,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	<u>ECF</u>
)	
v.)	No. 16-1150V
)	Special Master
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN)	George L. Hastings, Jr.
SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent,)	
)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Susan Itsell ("petitioner") filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program").

The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of the influenza ("flu") vaccine and the pneumococcal conjugate (Prevnar 13) vaccine, which vaccines are contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).

2. Petitioner received a flu vaccine on October 6, 2015,¹ and a Prevnar 13 vaccine on November 3, 2015.

3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that she developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome ("GBS"), which was caused-in-fact by either the flu or the Prevnar 13 vaccines. Petitioner further alleges that she suffered the residual effects of her injuries for more than six months.

¹ The amended petition, filed on November 2, 2016, incorrectly states that petitioner received the flu vaccine on October 3, 2015. The vaccination record shows that the flu vaccine was administered on October 6, 2015. See Pet. Ex. 9 at 283.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on her behalf as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine or the Prevnar 13 vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury, and further denies that petitioner's current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$165,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies,

Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a prepaid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8, and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the United States Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccine administered on October 6, 2015, or the Prevnar 13 vaccine administered on November 3, 2015, as alleged by petitioner in a petition and an amended petition for vaccine compensation filed on September 15, 2016, and November 2, 2016, respectively, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 16-1150V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the United States Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine or the Prevnar 13 vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury, or that her current disabilities are sequelae of her alleged vaccine-related injuries.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

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END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted,

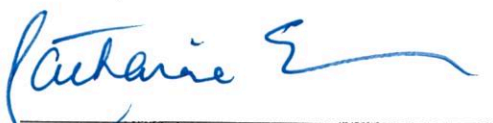
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SUSAN ITSELL


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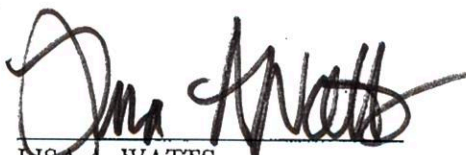
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DATE: 5/22/2017